

REMARKS

Prior to this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1 to 22 were pending and at issue. By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 17 and 20-22 have been amended, and new claims 23-35 have been added. The amendments have been made solely for the purpose of clarifying Applicants' claimed inventions, and none of the amendments have been made for reasons of patentability. No new matter has been introduced via these amendments to the claims.

Applicants have also amended the specification to ensure clarity and consistency between the figures and the textual description. No new matter has been introduced via these amendments to the specification.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seek early allowance thereof. If for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason C. White
Registration No. 42,223
Attorney for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200